

NAME: Kirihara, Isaji DATE OF BIRTH: 1882 PLACE OF BIRTH: Yamanashi
Age: 93 Sex: M Marital Status: M Education: _____

PRE-WAR:

Date of arrival in U.S.: 1902 Age: 20 M.S.S. Port of entry: San Fran.
Occupation/s: 1. Cannery worker 2. Farm laborer 3. Laundry business
Place of residence: 1. Alaska 2. San Jose 3. Oakland
Religious affiliation: Christian 4. Livingston (Farmer)
Community organizations/activities: _____

EVACUATION:

Name of assembly center: Merced
Name of relocation center: Amache, Colorado
Dispensation of property: Had an American take care of land.
Jobs held in camp: 1. Cleaning toilets 2. _____
Jobs held outside of camp: _____
Left camp to go to: _____

POST-WAR:

Date returned to West Coast: Sept. 1945
Address/es: 1. Livingston 2. _____
3. _____
Religious affiliation: Christian church
Activities: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
If deceased, date, place and age at time of death: _____

Name of interviewer: Takarabe Date: 7/29/75 Place: Livingston

Translator: Rachel Hall

Q: What is your name?

A: My name is Isaji Kirihara.

Q: What is Mrs. Kirihara's name?

A: Her name is Chiyono.

Q: Where were you born?

A: In Yamanashi Prefecture.

Q: When were you born?

A: In 1882 (15th year of Meiji).

Q: How old are you now?

A: I am 93 years old now.

Q: What kind of a family did you come from?

A: It was a farming family.

Q: What kind of farming were they doing?

A: They were growing rice and raising silkworms.

Q: What kind of a man was your father? Was he a strict man or a gentle man?

A: He was a gentle man.

Q: Do you remember about your father?

A: I remember a little. I left home when I was young, and went all over Japan. I was born in Yamanashi Prefecture, but did not live there long.

Q: How old were you when you left ^{your} home?

A: I think I was 12 or 13 years old.

Q: Where did you go?

A: I went to Tokyo and other places, but mostly to Tokyo.

Q: Did you go to your relatives'?

A: Yes, I went to my relatives'.

T: I am surprised you left home when you were young.

K: I had a complicated family. I was born as the first son, but my father did not marry my mother as he was forbidden by the family to marry her. I was brought up in my uncle's house. My mother lived close by, so sometimes she came and picked me up and took me to her home.

Q: Was your mother a gentle person?

A: She was a strict person, and ^{she} thought I should be brought up strictly.

Q: How much education did you have?

A: I did not have much schooling as I moved around.

Q: What year did you come to America?

A: In 1902.

Q: How old were you then?

A: I was 20 years old.

Q: What was the reason you came to America?

A: I thought I could make money in America, so I decided to come to America and make money.

Q: Did you know anybody in America?

A: No, my friend said he would go to America with me, so we came here together.

Q: Why did you choose America?

A: I read about Lincoln, and I thought as America was a country of freedom^{so}, I wanted to come to America.

Q: Didn't you have any relatives here?

A: No, I didn't.

Q: How did you make arrangements to come here?

A: They didn't want me stay home either, so my father gave me permission.

Q: Before you came here what kind of a country ^{did you think} America was?

A: I thought America was a rich and free country.

Q: Did you leave Japan when you were 20 years old?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Where did you leave from?

A: From Yokohama.

Q: Did you stop over in Hawaii?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: What kind of thing do you remember about the voyage?

A: We didn't have much to do on board the ship.

Q: Did you ~~make~~ friends?

A: I made a few friends but I never become too intimate with anyone.

Q: Did many Japanese come to America in those days?

A: Yes, many Japanese came here.

Q: Did you come here in 1902?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Where did you land?

A: I landed in San Francisco. From there I went to Alaska as
Oisoya Hotel found a job for me there.

Q: Didn't you land in San Francisco?

A: I landed there.

Q: Was there a strict inspection when you landed?

A: Yes, there was.

Q: Was there a physical examination?

A: Yes, there was.

Q: Did you come here as an immigrant?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Could you land here without knowing anybody here?

A: I told them that I knew somebody here.

Q: How long did you stay in San Francisco?

A: Just a few days, and then I went to Alaska.

Q: How did you feel when you landed at San Francisco?

A: Everything looked different from Japan.

Q: What did you do in Alaska?

A: I worked in a salmon cannery.

Q: Was the work very hard?

A: I did not think it was hard. The work was to put salmon in cans.

Q: Were many Japanese working there?

A: Yes, many Japanese were working there. We worked under Chinese.

Chinese contractors hired Japanese and took them to Alaska.

After many years Japanese recruited people to go to Alaska.

Q: How long did you stay in Alaska?

A: About 6 months.

Q: Did you work during the summer?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Do you recall anything about Alaska?

A: Someone died in Alaska, so we gathered and held a memorial service.

Q: Weren't you a Christian then?

A: No, I wasn't.

Q: I don't know many Isseis who went to Alaska, but were there many Isseis in Alaska then?

A: Yes, there were quite a few. They were all young men who went there to make money, so they gambled at night.

Q: Did they gamble among themselves, or did they go to gambling houses?

A: They gambled among themselves, so they had fights too.

Q: Were there people who lost a lot of money?

A: In those days we went to Alaska with a contract of \$140 for a trip. We received \$40 in advance to get ready, and received \$100 when we came back. They did not have much money so they could not bet too much, but they played hanafuda (Japanese playing cards) every night, and ended in fights.

Q: Wasn't \$100 a lot of money in those days?

A: Yes, it was a lot of money.

Q: How much did one meal cost in those days?

A: There was 10¢ meal in San Francisco. If we paid 15¢ we could eat good meal and satisfied young people. We could even have a meal for 5¢.

Q: About how much did they charge at a boarding house?

A: I don't remember, but it was not much.

Q: Was it about 50¢ a night?

A: I think it was around 50¢ a night because we did not make much money.

Q: Do you have any recollection of Alaska?

A: I don't remember anything special.

Q: About what time did you start working in the morning?

A: We did not start working too early in the morning, but as the sun was up till around 8 o'clock, we worked late at night.

Q: Was it a work that required strength?

A: No, it wasn't. It was ^{an} odd job such as moving cans from here and there.

Q: Did you have any experience with fish before?

A: No, I didn't.

Q: Was it the first time?

A: Yes, it was.

Q: Did you learn it right away?

A: Yes, they ^{were} various odd jobs, and there was no definite job.

Q: Whereabouts in Alaska was the cannery?

A: I think it was at a place called Naknek.

Q: Did you go to any other place in Alaska?

A: No, I stayed at one place from the beginning.

Q: What did you do over the weekends when you didn't have to work?

A: I went fishing or walked around.

Q: Was there a Japanese town?

A: No, there wasn't. I heard that people went to Juneau which was a big city, but we did not go there from our place.

Q: Did they bring you back by a ship when the work was finished?

A: They brought us back to San Francisco by a ship.

Q: What did you do after that?

A: It was the first part of November and there was no farm work.

Q: Where did you go from San Francisco?

A: I went to San Jose, and stayed there for a while and planted onions. After that I dug up grapes and planted prunes. There was a Japanese boss on the Westside of San Jose. He gathered many Japanese men, and when some farmers wanted some help he took the men over there.

Q: About how many people were there?

A: I think there were 14 or 15 people there.

Q: How long did you stay there?

A: I think I stayed there 2 or 3 years and went here and there.

Then I decided to do some housework, so I went to town.

Q: Which town did you go to?

A: Oakland.

Q: Did you find a job there?

A: There was an employment agency, so I went there and got a job as a dayworker. After I saved some money I started a cleaning business.

Q: Where was that ?

A: In Oakland.

Q: Did you start the business alone?

A: Yes, by myself.

Q: Did you make money?

A: I think I made some money.

Q: About how many years did you do that?

A: I think I did that for about 3 years. After I made some money I went to Japan to bring my wife here.

Q: Who found your wife for you?

A: After I went back to Japan I visited my relative and told him that I wanted a wife to take back to America. He told me that there was a girl at such and such place, so I went to see her.

Q: Did you like her and

A: Japanese people are fast. If parents tell you to marry someone you obey them.

Q: Did you come back here with your wife that year?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: What year was that?

A: I think it was 1913.

Q: Where were you at the time of the great earthquake?

A: I was in San Francisco.

Q: Were you scared then?

A: Yes, but I was single then and was living with a man from Yamashiro Prefecture. When the earthquake shook the house, we hid under a bed. A man came back from downtown and told us that there was great confusion downtown. The stores threw out merchandise and told him to take them, so he brought home a whole bunch of things. He was a dishwasher, so we went out and ate at the restaurant where he worked.

Q: Where did you live in San Francisco?

A: I think I lived on Eddy Street. It was near the Golden Gate Park.

Q: Wasn't there a fire around there?

A: Yes, there was. We were far away from the fire so we were not burned, but we went to see the fire. Market Street was crowded with cars hauling wounded people.

Q: Didn't you get any damage then?

A: We had our belongings in one kori (wicker suitcase) so we could move around. A man from Yamanashi Prefecture had an art object store, so we went to help him carry merchandise out. Once we left home we could not go back home, so we slept in a park. The Red Cross or some kind of organization distributed bread and other food, so we ate them.

Q: About how much money did you spend when you went home to take a wife and came back here?

A: I think I spent about \$300. There was a Japanese laundry near my place. A couple from Yamanashi Prefecture worked there. They had a baby, but they could not work with the baby, so they wanted me to take the baby to Japan to have the grandmother take care of the baby. They paid the passage which was around \$70, so it did not cost me too much for the trip. I think I spent about \$300.

Q: How old were you when you got married?

A: I think I was 31 or 32 years old.

Q: How old was Mrs. Kirihara?

A: I was 19 years old.

Q: Did you sell your laundry when you went back to Japan?

A: No, a friend of mine, Mr. Okubo who was in Oakland took care of my business, so I went back to my job when I came back to America.

Q: How long did you stay in Oakland?

A: I stayed there till I moved here in 1919.

Q: Were you in cleaning business until then?

A: Yes, I was. After I quit the business I worked as a dayworker.

Q: Why did you quit the business?

A: I did not make much profit from the cleaning business.

Q: What kind of daywork did you do?

A: I did everything; ^{such as} cleaning house, washing and ironing clothes.

Q: Did you make more money doing that?

A: Of course, I made more money that way.

Q: What did you do with the machinery used for laundry business?

A: I sold them to other people. A good friend of mine, Mr. Hoshiyama was in Livingston, and asked me to come to the country. I said I was not good at farming, but he told me not to worry and come to the country as it is a better place to raise children. I came here following his advice.

Q: Did you know Mr. Kyutaro Abiko?

A: Yes, I did. Mr. Hoshiyama was from Niigata Prefecture, and Mr. Abiko also was from the same prefecture. There was a man named Mr. Tanji working for the Nichi-Bei newspaper. He bought land in Livingston, so Mr. Hoshiyama bought land here, too, with his help.

Q: Did you buy land here because of that reason?

A: Yes, but I did not have money, so I bought it by yearly installments.

Q: How many acres did you buy?

A: I did not buy this land at first. I bought 20 acres which my brother James has now. Mr. Kashiwase next door had 40 acres. Mr. Shimanouchi of the Nichi-Bei Times bought 20 acres of Mr. Kashiwase's land, and I bought the remaining 20 acres.

Q: Do you know Mrs. Hayashi well?

A: Yes, but I did not know her at first. She was the wife of Mr. Giichi Minejima, the first village master of Livingston.

Mrs. K: The Minejimas used to live here, and the Hoshiyamas lived behind here.

Q: You came here in 1919, did you not?

A: Yes, we did.

Q: What year was this village started?

A: In 1907.

Q: Did you come here about the same time as the Okuyes?

A: They came here before we did. In those days Livingston and Loomis were the only two Japanese colonies. Japanese used to go to places where there were work carrying blankets on their backs, and when the work was finished they moved to other places. Thinking that Japanese will never advance in that way, Mr. Abiko bought land^a to let Japanese live there and built a Japanese colony. Mr. Okuye came from Japan on inspection tour and liked it here, so he settled here. He brought money from Japan and bought land here. He said that Livingston is a great place as people grow grapes but do not sell them for wine. There was Mr. Naka who grew figs. Mr. Okuye held home meetings and led newcomers from Japan to Christianity.

Q: Was this place developed when you came here?

A: It was not developed yet. When we walked on the road a cloud of dust rose. Even when we went to the neighbors we got lost. Sometimes chickens were buried under the sand.

Q: Was it windy?

A: It was very windy, and the dust storm blew for about 3 days as there was no irrigation in those days.

Q: You couldn't work when the strong wind blew, couldn't you?

A: We couldn't work, and couldn't even cook rice. The house was made of thin boards, so sand came in the house, and the house was full of sand.

Q: Was it hot?

A: It was hot but there was no cooling system like now. The only place to cool off was under the trees.

Q: What other hardships did you have when you first came here?

A: We did not have money so we had to borrow money. If we had income of \$2,000 from 20 acres we could make the ends meet. But there was war and the Depression, so we could not even buy rice. The bank would lend money to corporations but not to individuals, so people asked the corporations to buy rice for them. In those days Japanese could live if they had rice, shoyu and miso

Q: What were you growing then?

A: Mostly grapes. At present I don't hardly grow any grapes. I have changed to almonds and peaches.

Q: What kind of difficulties did you have in growing grapes?

A: When we planted grapes we had to make markings. Some people unravelled sacks and made ropes which they used for markings. However, when it was hot the rope would stretch and made the lines crooked. We used such a silly method. Nowadays we do not do such thing as making rope out of sacks for markings.

Q: Were they gunny sacks?

A: Yes. Now we use wire with lead on the end, so they do not come out.

Q: Were there rabbits around here?

A: When we caught them, we made feast out of them.

Q: Were there many rabbits around here?

A: Nowadays we do not see many of them. Nobody eats them now, but in those days friends brought hare when they caught them.

Q: Were they jack rabbits?

A: Yes, they were.

Q: Was your crops ever been damanged by rabbits?

A: Mes, as there were mo other food.

18

Q: Did you have difficulties during the Depression?

A: Yes, we did.

Q: How did you tide over the Depression?

A: We could not pay the water bill as usual, so we made a 10-year plan. We also asked the mortgage company to postpone the payment of the land as much as they could.

Q: Did you have enough to live on?

A: No, we didn't.

Q: Were there any Japanese around here who did not have enough to live on?

A: Everyone managed somehow. Not like now, people were friendly to each other, and used to get together and talked. If someone needed something we shared. Nowadays people are not needy, so they don't care about other people.

Q: Could you sell grapes then?

A: No, we couldn't, so we took grapes to Lodi and sold them for \$2.50 a ton.

Q: About how much do they usually cost?

A: About \$30 to \$40 a ton. It is over \$100 a ton now.

Q: Did you still sell them?

A: We did not have any other income, so we had to sell them.

A man named Mombock took care of all the land owned by Japanese around here. When we left here we were not sure if we could come back here or not. However, things got better because of the war, and people who had land made much money as they could sell their crops with good price. Those who lived here had to return the land to Japanese when we came back, so they tried not to return the land. Some Japanese who came back here early were threatened by being shot at.

Q: How did you feel when Pearl Harbor was attacked?

A: I thought Japanese started a grave thing.

Q: Did you think danger might come to you?

A: I didn't think so, but after the Pearl Harbor attack, the white people passed by shouting in loud voice, "Japs have attacked Pearl Harbor."

Q: Have you ever been given a hard time by the white people before then?

A: No, I never had such experience here.

Q: Were you given a hard time anywhere else?

A: Yes, when I was walking down the street, they called me a Jap and slapped my face.

Q: Where did that happen?

A: At Alviso near the salt farm. One day when I was walking down the street, a man on a bicycle came by and slapped my face without saying a word. I was very angry, so I swore at him. He turned around and was coming toward me when a lady came by in a buggy, so he went away. If he had come back I might have been beaten up. While I was in San Francisco some Japanese were thrown stones at or beaten up by groups of children, so ^I_A avoided walking down streets where children were gathered. Some of my friends had their teeth broken when they were beaten up, so I avoided going near dangerous places.

Mrs. K: That happened before the war.

Mr. K: In those days they did not serve us right away in restaurants, and they served us food in chipped dishes. There are no such cases now.

Q: Were the people in San Francisco mean to Japanese in those days?

A: Yes, they were.

Q: When Pearl Harbor was attacked, did you think Japanese here were in danger?

A: Rev. Aratani was here then, and we said terrible thing happened. We did not think we were in danger.

Q: Did you think Japan would be defeated then?

A: I didn't think Japan would be defeated then.

Q: What happened after the Pearl Harbor attack?

A: Then the popularity of Japanese went down. The white people started suspecting Japanese, and did not even sell merchandise to Japanese at stores. In those days many Japanese were raising chickens as chickens laid eggs, and chicken manure could be used as fertilizer. But the white people quit buying eggs from Japanese.

Q: What else happened? Did they buy grapes from Japanese?

A: They bought grapes, but some tried to obstruct the sale of grapes. There was a sign, "No More Japanese" at the entrance and exit of the town.

Q: Wasn't there a confinement order?

A: Yes, there was. We could not go out after a certain time at night. I think it was because it was dangerous to go out at night.

Q: Didn't you have any difficulties as you could not go out?

A: Yes, we did.

Q: You couldn't go out much in the daytime, couldn't you?

A: Not too bad in the daytime.

Q: What happened to you after that? Did you go to Merced?

A: Yes, we went to Merced.

Q: What did you do with your household goods?

A: Some people stored them in the church, and some in their friends'.

We stored ours in the WRA warehouse.

Q: What did you do with your ranch? Did Mambock take care of it?

A: Yes, he took care of the land belonging to Japanese, but not all the Japanese asked him to take care of their land.

Q: Did you ask Mambock to take care of your land?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Did anybody live in your house?

A: Mambock let the workers live in the houses.

Q: Did many people had their household goods stolen?

A: Yes, they had their household goods stolen.

Q: Were yours stolen, too?

A: No, they weren't.

Mrs. K: Some people who had their household goods stored in the government warehouse could have them sent to them if they asked. They had all their household goods returned to them when they came home.

Mr. K: They sent our tools to Amache, didn't they?

Mrs. K: They sent us whatever we asked them to send us from the storage.

Q: How did you feel when you went to the assembly center in Merced?

A: I wondered if I could come home again. I didn't think we could come back.

Mrs. K: That is why some people sold their land.

Q: Did you ever think that Japanese might be killed?

A: I didn't think so.

Q: Did you live in barracks in Merced?

A: Yes, we did.

Q: What kind of barracks were they?

A: Four or five families lived under one roof. There was no ceiling so we could hear the neighbors talk. There were partitions between families.

Q: How many children did you have then?

A: We had three children then.

Q: WERE they boys?

A: One girl and two boys. The girl had just graduated from school. She had a boyfriend, and they could ^{not} see each other again, so they got married.

Q: Did they get married in the camp?

A: Just before we entered the camp.

Q: Did they go to camp together?

A: Yes, they did.

Q: How old was your daughter then?

A: She had just graduated from the junior college in Modesto, so she must have been 19 or 20. Two boys went into service.

Q: Did they go into service from the camp?

A: No. The oldest son was drafted right before the war broke out, and the other son went into service from the camp.

Q: What do you remember about Merced?

A: I did not know how long we were going to stay there, so I decided to do what other people did not like to do, that is, cleaning latrines.

Q: What else do you remember about Merced? Was there any trouble?

A: Some people rumored that trains with Japanese on-board would be bombed, but I did not think American people would do such cruel thing.

Mrs. K: Our camp was peaceful compared to other camps.

Q: What did you do in Amache? Did you clean the latrines there, also?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Was that your job?

A: Yes, it was.

23

Q: What did you do for hobby?

A: I learned singing.

Q: Do you remember anything good or bad that happened in the camp?

A: There were 28 items that Japanese had to sign. Some people said that Americans were going to send groups of Japanese to the front lines and let us die there, so we should not sign them. I believed that those who were born in this country should fight for this country, so I encouraged my sons to join the service. Some people said that Japan was going to win the war, so we should not do such thing.

Q: Didn't people say anything to you when your son joined the service?

A: Nobody said anything here.

Q: What about in the camp?

A: We never heard anybody say anything. Our camp was pretty good. People from Livingston were Christians, so they were good. About once a month we had a meeting with Buddhists, so we did not have such trouble in Amache.

Q: What were those 28 items that you had to sign?

A: They were things we should not do.

Q: Who wrote them?

A: The American government did.

Q: Did you sign the paper?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: It was quite peaceful in Amache, wasn't it?

A: Yes, it was quite peaceful, and there was no trouble.

Q: Do you remember anything else about the camp? What kind of fun did you have?

Mrs. K: I don't think he had much fun or unpleasant memories.

I think singing practice was fun for him.

Q: When did you leave the camp?

A: In 1945.

Q: Was it before the war ended?

A: After the war ended and we were told that we could go home.

Q: Could you get back in your house right away?

A: No. Some people were living in our house, so we went to Utah where our son-in-law was growing onion, and stayed there for a while.

Q: Did the white people live in your house?

A: Yes, they were.

Q: So you stayed at your son-in-law's?

A: Yes, we did.

Mrs. K: We could have come back and stayed at the church, but our son-in-law wanted us to go there, so we went there.

Q: Did you stay there till November?

A: Yes, we did.

Q: Did this house become vacant then?

A: Yes, we moved in before Thanksgiving Day.

Mrs. K: We stayed at the church just for a little while.

Q: Did you stay at the church?

A: Yes, we did. People who lived here did not move out so we had to stay at the church.

Q: Was your house clean or dirty when you came back?

A: It was dirty everywhere.

Q: What about the farming tools?

A: They were gone.

Q: How old were your sons and daughters then?

A: Our daughter was in Utah. Our oldest son came back from the service around the same time we came back.

Mrs. K: He went into service before the war broke out. Our second son was still in the service. One day our oldest son came home suddenly.

Q: Were you in the camp when the war ended?

A: Yes, I was.

Q: How did you feel then?

A: Japan had underestimated America, and thought Japan would win the war because Japanese have the Japanese spirit. I think that was a misunderstanding. Americans were confused when they were attacked suddenly, but with their mechanical power they do big things thinking far ahead. Japanese take a short view of things and try to do things fast, so if the war lasts long they cannot win.

Q: Did your son help you with farming after he came home?

A: Yes, he did.

Q: Were you around 60 when you came back?

A: Yes, I was.

Q: Did you work since then?

A: Yes, of course.

Q: When did you have the first contact with Christianity?

A: Since I was young I liked to listen to sermons. I used to listen to Buddhist monks' sermons when I was in Japan. I heard Rev. Okubo of the Independent Church in Oakland talk in San Francisco. When I went to Oakland I went to the Independent Church. In those days Rev. Kodaira was at the Independent Church, and he led me to Christianity.

Q: Was the religion of your family Buddhism?

A: Yes, it was.

Q: What do you remember about the lessons you learned when you were young? Did you learn about Ninomiya Kinjiro?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Do you remember anything that you learned from your parents?

A: My mother was an illiterate person, but she brought me up strictly. In those days I thought she was a mean lady, but now I know that it was good that she scolded me. If we want a child to grow up to be somebody we have to be strict to that child. Looking back, I think she was a good mother. She liked to give things to others although she did not have any money. I think she was fortunate in that respect.

Q: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

A: I had four.

Q: Were you the oldest?

A: Yes, I was.

Q: Do you remember any war or incidents that happened in Japan?

A: At the time of the Sino-Japanese War Japanese thought that Japan was the greatest country in the world as it was the god's country. When I became more knowledgeable I realized that was not enough.

Q: Do you remember about the Russo-Japanese War?

A: I think that war broke out after I came to America. I remember donating some money that I earned to Japan.

Q: Of course you were here at the time of World War I, weren't you?

A: Yes, I was.

Q: Did you do anything then?

A: I also sent some money to Japan.

Q: Did you belong to the Heimusha Kai?

A: No, I didn't.

Q: Did you stop over in Hawaii?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Did you go ashore?

A: No, I didn't.

Q: Were there anybody around here who died of overwork?

A: We never heard of such person.

T: Around Fresno many people who went to pick grapes died from heat.

K: In those days the water was bad, they did not eat good and had no place to sleep. They wanted to make money fast and go back to Japan, so they overworked.

T: They suffered from Malaria or something.

K: That's what we heard. I heard that Rev. Hirota was the first pastor in Fresno, and at one time he had to give around sixty funerals.

Q: Were they only Christians?

A: No, anybody because there wasn't anybody else to perform the funerals.

Q: Were they young people who died?

A: Yes, they were. They worked from early in the morning as it was hot. Most of them did piece work, so they worked hard.

Q: There wasn't much gambling around here, wasn't there?

A: No, not around here.

Q: Did single men come to work around here?

A: It seems that many of them came here in early days. Fortunately, Mr. Okuye and others came here to^a build Christian colony decided that Japanese should not go into business in town but just stick to farming. Mr. Naka was wise and far-sighted. He said Japanese should learn English. Some people accused him for being a pro-American. He did not encourage people to study Japanese language. That is why we are behind in something like Japanese language.

T: I think it is interesting that Japanese here did not get into business.

Q: Why did they decided not to get into business here?

A: If people go into business they had to compete with each other,
so they decided not to go into business in this town.

Q: Didn't anybody go into business here?

A: No, there isn't.

Q: Did you ever want to go back to 'Japan?

A: I did not want to go back to Japan to live, but I just wanted
to go there for a visit.

Q: Did you come here to settle down permanently?

A: No, I didn't. But after children were born I thought we should
settle down in this country.

Q: Did you want to go back to Japan after you saved some money?

A: Maybe I did, but I could not save money.

Q: How much money did you want to save?

A: I wanted to save \$3,000.

Mrs. K: People used to say they would go back to Japan if they
saved so much money.

Mr. K: I am glad I stayed in this country.

Q: Why was it?

A: If we go back we would take that much space in that small country.

I did not want to be cramped up in that small country.

Q: What kind of difficulties did you have or mistakes did you make before you got used to the life in America? How about toilets?

A: I think toilets here are better than those in Japan.

Q: How about the baths?

A: I think Japanese baths are better than American baths.

Q: Did you go to any school to learn English?

A: No, I didn't.

Q: Where and how did you learn English?

A: I wished I studied English more.

Q: Have you worked as a schoolboy?

A: I did for a little while, but I didn't go to any school.

Q: But you learned enough English to do the housework, didn't you?

A: Yes, I learned that much.

Q: Couldn't Japanese buy land when you bought land here?

A: No, we couldn't.

Q: How did you buy land then?

A: We bought it as a corporation. There were some white people in the corporation, so we asked some white people to buy in their names. Also, our children had citizenship, so we could buy in their names.

Q: Didn't it cost more money to do that way?

A: We had two lawyers. Mr. Carden took good care of Japanese.

Q: Was he a good man?

A: Yes, he took good care of Japanese. I forgot the name of the other lawyer.

Q: Did you belong to such associations as the Japanese Association?

A: I did not belong to the Japanese Association. There was the Colony Kai here, and I was a member of it.

Q: Did you belong to it and to the church?

A: Yes, I did/

Q: Did you become a member of the church right after you came here?

A: I belonged to a church in Oakland before I came here. Mr. Okuye the first Christian pioneer came here from Oakland. People came here mostly from Oakland.

Q: What kind of joy and sorrow did you have in bringing up children here?

A: I thought the American way of education was better than that in Japan.

Q: Since there was no Japanese language school here, did you think the children did not have to learn Japanese?

A: I did not think so, but it was hard to learn both. If they get the good points of Americans, they should get the Japanese spirits, ~~also~~. I think they are the same. I don't think there was too much difference in loving justice.

Q: Have the members of the white churches ever been kind to you?

A: The white people in Livingston are generally kind to us.

Q: Didn't you have much contact with the white churches?

A: There was a Methodist Church in town, and the members of the church were kind to us.

Q: As a Japanese, what is your opinion about being put in a camp?

A: Some people were very indignant for being put in such a place, but as there was war going on, I thought it was safer to be in such a place than to be alone outside. I did not have any resentment.

Q: You told me that you cleaned latrines in the camp. From what kind of reason did you do that?

A: There was Itto-En in Kyoto which was founded by Tenko Nishida whose principle was to serve other people. He cleaned latrines. That was my main motive.

Q: Was it a name of a group?

A: No. They went out and served people such as cleaning people's dirty houses. They did not ask for reward, but some people served lunch.

Q: Did you belong to the Itto-En?

A: No, I didn't. I read about it.

Q: Did the church here get back to its feet right after the war, or did it take a long time?

A: It took a long time.

Q: Why was it?

A: In the camp everybody received the same amount of salary. At home the parents took care of their children, but in the camp the government took care of the children, so they did not respect their parents much.

Q: Did that kind of thinking made it hard to rebuild the church?

A: Yes, it did.

Q: Did the white people treat you the same way as before when you came home?

A: There were good people who welcomed us from the bottom of their hearts, but there were some who did not like us.

Q: Did the people who didn't like you say anything unpleasant to you?

A: No, they just gave unpleasant look.

Q: Did you have experience of people refusing to sell merchandise to you at stores?

A: They did not refuse us, but they served other people first, and made us wait.

Q: Did you find a job right after you came home? You could not come back to your ranch, couldn't you?

A: I stayed in the hostel at church for a while before we could come home.

Q: Did you have a job while you were in the hostel?

A: I didn't do anything. Women cooked.

Q: Do you think it is good that Sanseis and Yonseis became aware that they are Japanese, or do you think they don't have to do that?

A: I think it is good. Japanese spirit will not disappear too easily. Each country has its own spirit. I think Japanese spirit is common with American spirit. Three American soldiers put up a flag on Iwo Jima. ^A Japanese might have tried to take credit to himself but three Americans put up a flag together. That is a good point of Americans. When the war broke out a few Japanese Americans in a university in Hawaii thought they should serve America. That is how the 100th Battalion was formed. It might not have been in the same form, but it showed the Japanese spirit.

Q: From your 93 years of experience, what kind of thing do you want to teach the young people?

A: As I am a Christian I think the Christian way of life was the best thing in my life. People nowadays tend to slight faith, but I think everybody has spirit.

Q: What do you do when you become a Christian?

A: We serve other people. That is the Christian way.

Q: Do you think it is a worthless life if we cannot serve others?

A: Yes.

Q: Do you have any other things you want to teach young people?

Do you think it is good for a person to experience hardship?

A: I think it is good. If one does not experience hardship he would be a thoughtless person. Nobody wants hardship, but more one experience hardship, the better person he will become. I did not have much education, but having experienced hardship made me what I am now.

Q: People around here say that Isseis in olden days were poor but they helped each other and were more relaxed. Do you think so?

A: I think so.

Q: Was it you who said that people got together and helped each other in olden days?

A: Young people say that we helped each other because we were poor, but I don't think we did so just because we were poor.

Q: As a human being it is better that way, isn't it?

A: Yes, I think it is better to be poor.

T: I think people nowadays are too fortunate.

K: I think that is not good.

Q: Who was your model whom you respected?

A: It was Masashige Kusunoki when I was little, but since I became a young man it has been Abraham Lincoln that I respected.

Q: Why was it?

A: He grew up in a poor family but emancipated the Black people.

Q: Did you learn about Lincoln at school or did you read about him?

A: I read about him.

Q: You told me that you did not much education but did you study by yourself?

A: I studied by myself.

Q: Do you recall anything else?

A: I had stroke about 3 years ago, so my memory became poor since then.

Q: How old are you Mrs. Kirihara?

A: I am 82 years old.